

Another Frog Project



INTEGRATED THEMES

A Double Irish Chain Frog Quilt

Making a class quilt is always fun, and the wonder of watching it all come together as the product of community effort is exciting. We've chosen the Double Irish Chain pattern for this quilt because of the many mathematical observations children can make as they study the finished quilt. Plan on 3 or 4 days from start to finish for this project and then display the quilt for everyone to enjoy. If it's your turn to decorate the office or the library, a quilt or a growing number pattern chart will let visitors know how many ways your children are experiencing mathematics. (See Sessions 14 and 15 or 38 and 39 in Volume One for a more detailed write-up of a quilt project.)

Making the Patchwork Quilt Blocks

Each student will need

- ★ Double Irish Chain quilt block (Blackline I 2.28, run a class set)
- ★ 4 squares 1" x 1" black construction paper
- ★ 12 squares 1" x 1" green construction paper
- ★ 9 squares 1" x 1" white construction paper
- ★ glue

Note If you set the colored squares out in baskets or trays at each table, children can count the squares they need as they're ready for each color. Make extra squares in case a group runs out of one or more of the colors.



Gather your students into a circle or a "U" in the discussion area where all of them can see your copy of the quilt block. Show them the key at the bottom of the sheet and explain that everyone will need to use the same colors as shown in the key so that this quilt will be their best one yet. Have them help you count how many white squares you'll need. Place drops of glue in the corners of all the white squares on the quilt block sheet and quickly attach the construction paper squares to the paper. Repeat the process with the black, and then the green squares. Hang your finished quilt block where everyone can see it and then send children out to begin their own work. As students are finishing, have them check to be sure all their paper squares have been glued in the correct places and are securely attached to the paper. Ask

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youngsters to put their names on their papers and set them in a specific location to dry. You'll need to write children's names directly on their blocks after they've dried and then trim away the margins with a paper cutter. Save these until the Setting Blocks are finished and trimmed as well.

Making the Frog Setting Blocks

Each child will need

- ★ Frog Setting Block (Blackline I 2.29)
- ★ 4 squares 1" x 1" black construction paper

The next day, gather children to your discussion circle and show them a copy of the setting block sheet. Explain that they'll need to draw and brightly color a picture of a frog in the center of the setting block and then glue four black squares into the corners. As you discuss the task, take a look at some of the simpler illustrations and photographs of frogs you have on hand. Ask children to use these to help in making pictures of frogs or toads that are accurate in shape and color. Once they understand the task, send them out to work. When their setting blocks are finished, have students put their names on the sheets and set them aside to dry. Once dry, you'll need to write children's names directly on their setting blocks and trim the blocks with a paper cutter so they'll be ready to assemble tomorrow.



Assembling the Finished Blocks

You'll need

- ★ butcher paper for the backing
- ★ glue

On the third day, after the quilt blocks and setting blocks are dry, trimmed, and ready to assemble, gather children in the discussion area and hand out their blocks. Explain that the Double Irish Chain quilt needs to be assembled as